

REMARKS

The undersigned thanks Examiner Pratt and Supervisor Terrel for the courtesies extended to Mr. Nakanishi and the undersigned during the interview of March 29, 2001.

The Examiner's Interview Summary states:

The examiner indicated that the current language, with respect to the linear binder is being interpreted broadly to mean any binder composition, which is applied. Applicants explained that their invention is actually meant to represent a binder applied to the fabric in the form of a line or fiber. It was determined that a possible error occurred [sic, occurred] in the translation of the phrase "linear binder." It was suggested that Applicants file a CPA to amend the claims (and possibly the spec.) to indicate an accurate actual representation of the actual binder. The Examiner also expressed concern that the claim amendments have support in the originally filed spec.

While the interview summary of the Examiner summarizes the interview very well, the undersigned adds the following for the record.

First, that Mr. Nakanishi explained during the interview that the exact translation of the phrase used in Japanese for the linear binder of this invention is "line-like." The Examiner said that using the phrase --line-like-- instead of "linear" will distinguish this invention over Kishi and yet allow the binder to be applied in the form of solid or liquid lines, e.g., fiber or lines of epoxy.

Second, the Examiner said that if Applicants amend the claims to recite "line-like," then Applicants should also submit a Declaration explaining that this term is supported and explained in the original Japanese specification. Otherwise, he will reject the claims for lack of written description and indefiniteness.

Third, the Examiner said that based on the support provided in the figures, Applicants could consider reciting --filamentary binder-- or --co-woven binder-- instead of "linear".

In addition, the undersigned discussed that Applicants might want to add claims to just the "fabric," because the product claims in the application right now are directed to a prepreg.

Claims 22-28 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,447,785 (Kishi). The rejection is respectfully traversed in light of this Amendment.

First, "linear" is changed to --line-like-- in claim 22.

Second, Mr. Nakanishi states in a Declaration, enclosed herewith, that the Japanese priority document discloses the term --line-like--, not "linear." The word "linear" in the original specification filed in this application resulted from an incorrect translation. As per the Examiner's suggestion, Applicants are filing a partial substitute specification, enclosed herewith, replacing the original specification *excluding* claims. The partial substitute specification does not introduce new matter.

All claims, therefore, are in condition for allowance and a notice thereof is solicited.

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification

Replace the specification *excluding* the claims with the partial substitute specification enclosed herewith.

In the Claims

22. (Twice Amended) A cloth prepreg made by a wet process comprising a woven fabric impregnated with a resin and a binder distributed in a [linear] line-like manner on the fabric to maintain yarn flatness,

the fabric comprising a number of crossing points of warp and weft in a range of from 2,000 to 70,000/m², warp and weft yarns substantially free from twist, a width of 3 to 20 mm and a flatness as defined by a ratio of yarn width to yarn thickness of at least 20,

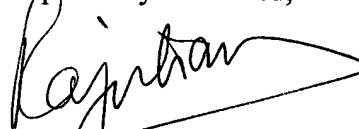
the prepreg having a cover factor of at least 90%.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent & Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952**, referencing 360842003400. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: June 28, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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Attachments: Substitute specification
Declaration of Toru Nakanishi